THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 24. SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Aug. 30th, 2.30 p.m.—Victoria Park —Miss Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Miss Hodge *(New Zealand)*, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and Mrs. Schlette.
Monday, Aug. 31st, 3 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Member's Meeting.
8 p.m.—Custom House, Freemason's Road —Miss Somers.
8.30 p.m.—South Hackney, Swiss Cottage, —Mrs. Walker.
Tuesday, Sept. 1st, 2.30 p.m.—Hackney, 30 Churchill Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—
Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 3 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Women's Meeting.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, 124 Barking Rd.—Miss Smith.
8 p.m.—Bromley, Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Walker
Friday, Sept. 4th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Miss Somers.

OUR PAPER.

Members who wish to obtain the DREADNOUGHT badges which are to be awarded to those who have sold 1,000 copies of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT and to which a stripe is to added for each additional thousand, should see to it that they get a receipt from the organiser or shop secretary when they hand in their DREADNOUGHT money.

They should retain these receipts until they have reached a thousand and send them in when claiming their badge.

COTTAGES.

A "Socialist Suffragette" offers to start a fund with which to buy the £80 plot of land mentioned in Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's article last week, and to build on it two cottages with gardens, the cost of each cottage to be £240, or to build one cottage with a garden, and turn the remainder into a playground for the children who live in the neighbouring cottages where there are no gardens.

This is an excellent plan for finding work for the people at this crisis, as well as for beginning to improve the unhappy housing conditions of East London. These cottages with gardens might be made an example to all the neighbouring districts.

To build the two cottages and buy the land will cost £680. Who will help to complete the fund that has been started?

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Considerable numbers of unemployed women have registered, amongst others, a capable Yorkshire woman in East Ham wants work. She is fond of children and a good organiser.

We recommend this to the notice of the West Ham Distress Committee, for as far as possible paid workers should be employed on Relief work rather than voluntary workers.

Small orders of various sorts have come in—notably for brushes and dressing gowns for wounded soldiers. Nightgowns and underclothing for women and children are being made and may be bought from us, either for personal use or to give away. If one or more friends would give £10 for materials, we should be able to buy calico and flannel, etc., from wholesale firms much more cheaply than we can now buy retail.

When the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT went to press last week, we had one babies' milk centre, at the Woman's Hall 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, to which a large number of mothers and children were coming daily. Now we have a second centre at 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar, and before we go to press next week, we shall probably have opened two additional centres in other districts. Nurse Smith has kindly helped by calling to give advice to the mothers whose babies are ill, and Doctor Lilian Simpson, has now promised to attend at 400 Old Ford Road on Tuesdays and Fridays between three and four o'clock. We still urgently need more gifts of milk and eggs or money with which to buy these.

Miss Durham and Miss Morgan Jones have kindly sent eggs, and other friends sent gifts of money which are acknowledged elsewhere.

On Monday next the 31st August, we hope to open our first "Cost Price Restaurant" at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow. Dinners will be served from 12 noon to 2 o'clock and from 6 p.m. till 8 o'clock at 2d. per head. Other restaurants will be opened in various districts as soon as arrangements can be made. We want gifts of food and money to keep the restaurants going.

Mrs. Ennis Richmond has kindly promised to superintend.

TOPSY-TURVY AS USUAL!

At a time like this, when the paramount importance of food, fuel and clothing are brought vividly home to us by the possibility that the National supplies of these things may be stopped, the poor middle-class girl, whose life has been spent attending to little unnecessary extras, and who has longed in vain for a skilled urgent occupation, finds herself in a pitiable plight. It may be that her father's business has come to an end, or that he is running it at what threatens to be a loss, or perhaps her own small income has diminished or disappeared.

One must indeed pity her, but it is not fair to pity her at the expense of women who have worked hard to maintain themselves all their lives. Whatever is done to find employment for those who lacked energy or inclination to work before should not now be allowed to supersede the women toilers who do their part in keeping the work-a-day world going as a long, long dreary rule!

All sorts of topsy turvy arrangements are come to nowadays. Women clerks and typists are workless by the score in London, yet women clerks and typists employed by Government departments and Local Authorities are made to work overtime far into the night, and their annual holidays are cancelled.

Emergency helpers are starting shirt making factories for "educated girls," including typists, whilst women shirt makers in East London cannot get this usual work of theirs to do.

Lord Kitchener says: "We are all proud" of our soldiers, but their mothers, wives and children are half starved, and stand waiting in queues for the paltriest of doles.

It is always the working women who suffer most.

DEMANDING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF FOOD.

POPLAR DISTRESS COMMITTEE.

On Monday, August 24th, the Bow, Bromley and Poplar Distress Committee again met, and again no schemes of relief were forthcoming. The business consisted of discussing the report of the General Purposes Committee which had recommended:

(*a*) That four Registration Offices be opened in the Borough—one each in Poplar, Bow, Bromley and the Isle of Dogs—in charge of an appointed paid official.

(*b*) The offices to be opened daily for women applicants, from 10 to 1 o'clock, and for men applicants, from 2 to 6 o'clock.

(*c*) At each office a Complete Register to be kept on card system in the form prescribed by the Local Government Board, the cards to be subsequently forwarded by the Officer in charge to the Secretary of each Ward Committee.

(*d*) That a sub-committee be formed in each of the fourteen Wards in the Borough, the nucleus of such sub-committee to be the Borough Councillors and Guardians for the respective Wards who are to be instructed to add to their number other members of the Committee, representatives of Employers, Trade Unions, Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association, Women's and Benevolent Societies, Clergy and representatives of religious denominations generally, to the extent of 15 in all.

(*e*) That members of the Representative Committee be invited to select the Ward in which they would prefer to serve

(*f*) That His Worship the Mayor nominate a member of the Borough Council as Chairman of each Ward Committee.

(*g*) That the Ward Committees appoint their place of meeting and a voluntary helper as Secretary.

(*h*) Each ward Committee to receive from the District Registrar the register of applications from residents of the Ward, enquire into the bona fides of applicants, report to the General Committee, and be responsible for such distribution of relief as may be afforded as directed.

(*i*) Ward Committees to be requested to arrange for separate nights of meeting for interviewing men and women applicants and to ensure each case is visited in the home.

There was a good deal of worrying as to whether the names and circumstances of the applicants should be duplicated or triplicated. The Town Clerk pointed out that the forms to be filled up would take a very long time to write up, as the answers to a large number of questions were demanded. Mrs. Atlee at last pointed out the simple fact that carbon papers would make re-writing unnecessary.

A representative of the Board of Trade stated that there was in some trades a tendency towards shortage of skilled workers, whilst there was a growing lack of employment for the unskilled.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst drew from the Board of Trade representative the fact that he had *no figures in regard to the employment of women*, who are more likely than men to be thrown out of work by the war, and that *there is no Labour Exchange for women in Bow, Bromley and Poplar District.*

Councillor Green urged that applications of men and women to the distress committee for work should not be considered until they had first registered also at a Labour Exchange.

We hope that this procedure will not be adopted. Already men and women, amongst them women who are applying for pinafores, etc., to make in their own homes, and, who perhaps have several little children to drag with them, will have to walk to one of the four registration offices which may be at half-an-hour's walk from where they live. They will attend at the registration office perhaps several times and will wait there for hours before they can be registered owing to the rush of applicants. Then they will have to again appear, perhaps more than once, before the Ward Sub-Committees. These things are surely enough without adding still further formalities. For many days past the soldiers' and sailors' wives have been standing outside the Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, in a long queue, waiting for hours to register, and the same thing has been happening in other districts. Only gradually have the women learnt to whom they must apply for their money. Many have waited in vain to have it sent to them, a number have learnt at last from the E.L.F.S. canvassers. Up to the beginning of this week there were still numbers of women who had received no allowance.

Similar long queues of tired, hungry women and little babies, but probably in greater numbers, will soon be waiting to be registered by the Distress Committees unless rooms are provided for them to rest in. The Mayor of Poplar promised that this should be done, and it was urged that the soldiers' and sailors' wives of Bow and Bromley should be allowed by the officials of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Aid Societies to wait in the large empty Bromley Public Hall instead of in the street.

Some members of the Distress Committees still questioned the fact that we have distress in our midst! It is terribly hard that so many weeks should have been allowed to elapse without anything being done by the Committee to cope with the unemployment and destitution that has arisen in this district. The Ward Sub-committees were only formed on Thursday, August 20th.

WAKE UP POPLAR!

The West Ham Borough Council is setting on foot schemes of work which will cost £8,000. These include the laying out of Lyle's Park, which was given to the Borough two years ago, and the levelling of Wanstead Flats.

West Ham is the first Borough in London to have begun the work of coping with distress.

While fruit is so cheap it is important that we should bottle as much as possible for use in the coming winter, when distress will be extreme. Jam and pickle jars of all descriptions are required for this purpose, especially those with patent caps. Please send all you can spare to the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.
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No. 24.—Saturday, Aug. 29th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

RESOLUTIONS.

By the time the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is printed a number of members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes will have been placed on the Ward Distress Committees for Bow, Bromley, and Poplar. Our help has also been asked in West Ham.

Our delegates will realise the importance of making the fullest possible use of this opportunity to help our East London neighbours, especially the women and children, in this time of National crisis.

Such opportunities of doing important administrative work are seldom open to working women.

A memorandum sent out by the Local Government Board for the guidance of the Local Distress Committees very truly says: "Obviously the best way to provide for persons thrown out of their usual employment as a result of the war, is to provide them with some other work for wages."

The Local Government Board urges that local authorities should "continue to push on all works already in progress and it is hoped that in many cases they will be able to expedite other forms of public work, and thus absorb a considerable amount of labour."

"In other cases" the Local Government Board circular to Mayors and members of Distress Committees says, "the Distress Committee in co-operation with the local authority will probably be able to initiate schemes of work by which provision could be made for the more deserving and necessitous cases, such schemes will be aided by grants made by the Board out of the Unemployed Workmen Act."

This is therefore the moment for initiating public works of all kinds. In country districts, attention should be given to the growing of fruits, grains and vegetables, and the rearing of sheep and cattle, but in East London and other city areas, other work must be done.

We understand that the Labour members of the Poplar Borough Council are moving for a scheme to clear away some of the slum property, and to build new workmen's dwellings in their place.

As the representative of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes on the Bow, Bromley and Poplar Central Distress Committee, I shall move:—

That all vacant pieces of waste ground in the district be purchased and that these be used both for building cottages and gardens, and for laying out playgrounds for the children living in existing cottages without gardens, and situated far from a park. Also that necessary drainage improvements be carried out in the streets in the neighbourhood of Suffolk Street and Sussex Street, in the North Ward Poplar, in order that the lower rooms of the houses in these streets may not be, as at present, flooded with foul smelling water, during the spring tides and heavy rains.

The E.L.F.S. also moves that:—

The Distress Committee open factories for food preserving and garment making, and also gives out garments to women to make in their homes, and that we approach the Local Government Board, the Cabinet Committee and the Prince of Wales's Fund for any assistance that may be necessary.

Owing to the fact that a large proportion of the men are going to the war, women will suffer more greatly than men from unemployment.

Both food preserving and garment making provide many varied forms of employment which the women of this district are qualified to undertake.

The Distress Committee clothing factories might confine themselves to making clothes for necessitious families.

The Prince of Wales' Fund is to receive gifts in kind as well as in money, large gifts of food are being sent from the Colonies as well as from persons in this country.

At the present time, as far as food is concerned, I am informed that in certain districts fruit is going bad because the owners do not think it will pay them to employ labour to have it picked. To take one instance, a man who owns land near Maidstone, and employs permanently upwards of 12 men and many additional workers in the busy season, and who usually sends fruit to Covent Garden market, says that it will not pay him to do so this year and that he will not trouble to have his fruit picked for sale. He has offered to send the E.L.F.S. 960 lbs. of plums this week. I am informed by the National Political League that there are a large number of similar cases throughout the country.

A member of our organisation in Poplar, told me that a friend of hers returning from Wisbech reported 200 tons of fruit rotting, because it would not pay for picking and freight charges.

At the same time, factories in which fruit and food of all kinds is preserved are shutting down or working short time.

In setting up food preserving factories in connection with Distress Committees, the Government should be appealed to to allow of food being carried on the railways free of charge.

At the same time the freight charges for food in ordinary use ought also to be greatly reduced, for the high railway rates in this country account for the failures of many farmers.

The food preserved in the factories run under the auspices of the Distress Committees could be sent to Relief Centres, which would distribute it to necessitous people. A percentage of it could be held in case of famine.

The grave need which exists at this crisis, for the Government to control the entire food supply of this country is constantly being shown. On Tuesday, the Advisory Committee of the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations informed the Board of Trade that the continued rise in the wholesale price of beef and mutton, rendered necessary certain advances in prices. For "prime joints" they said, the advance need not be more than 1d. per pound, but for the "coarser parts" the advance must be 1½d. to 2d.—and yet we are told there is no scarcity of meat! As usual the poor are made to suffer most.

As the Government shows no sign of keeping the price of food-stuffs down to a scale at which the majority of our people can afford to buy, and as numbers of Reservists' wives and other women who have hitherto stayed at home will now be forced out to work, and as in spite of all that may be done in the way of providing schemes of employment, many persons will still be in need of relief.

That the Distress Committee establish a number of restaurants at which food may be cheaply sold, to be eaten on or off the premises, and free tickets for which may be given by the Ward Sub-committees in necessitous cases.

Also that a scheme for child welfare be adopted as follows:—

The Local Government Board on July 30th last, issued a circular to County Councils and Sanitary Authorities in which it is stated that:—

"Medical advice and treatment should be continuously and systematically available for expectant mothers, and for children until they are entered on a school register."

The Board offers to pay one-half the necessary expenditure to local authorities who will undertake this work.

The Local Government Board says: "A complete scheme would comprise the following elements, each of which will, in this connection, be organised in its direct bearing on infantile health.

1.—Arrangements for the local supervision of midwives.

2.—*Ante-natal*—Arrangements for:—
1. An ante-natal clinic for expectant mothers.
2. The home visiting of expectant mothers.
3. A maternity hospital or beds in a hospital, in which complicated cases of pregnancy can receive treatment.

3.—*Natal*—Arrangements for:—
1. Such assistance as may be needed to ensure the mother having skilled and prompt attendance during confinement at home.
2. The confinement of sick women, including women having contracted pelvis or suffering from any other condition involving danger to the mother or infant, at a hospital.

4.—*Post-natal*—Arrangements for:—
1. The treatment in hospital of complications arising after parturition, whether in the mother or in the infant.
2. The provision of systematic advice and treatment for infants at a Baby Clinic or Infant Dispensary.
3. The continuance of these Clinics and Dispensaries so as to be available for children up to the age when they are entered on a school register, i.e. the register of a Public Elementary School, Nursery School, Creche, Day Nursery, School for Mothers or other school.
4. The systematic home visitation of infants and of children not on a school register as above defined.

Local Government Board—July, 1914.

That the Local Government Board's complete scheme be adopted, and that to it shall be added the provision of free milk for every case in which it can be shown that the family is not able to provide for the baby as much milk as a child of its age ought to have; the milk to be provided, either on the recommendation of the nurse or doctor, or in response to an application by the father, mother, or guardian.

Also that expectant mothers and their children under school age shall be given adequate nourishment, either by the provision of meals at a food centre, or by food tickets, or by payments in cash on the advice of a doctor, or on their own application when it can be shown that they are unable to provide this for themselves. The meals should be connected with doctoring, in order that the right kind of nourishment may be supplied.

That free meals for the school children shall be given on Saturday, Sunday and other holidays, and that children whose parents are receiving Poor Law Relief shall not be disqualified on that account.

There is grave need for the removal of the "pauper disqualification." In one typical Bow case, in which the children are refused school meals on this account, the father is a permanent invalid, the mother earns about 8s. a week at pinafore making in busy seasons, but just now can get very little work to do. There are three children under the age for leaving school, and she is expecting another. The Poor Law Authorities allow her 10s. a week. She pays 7s. a week rent. At one time she took a lodger, but was told by the Guardians that the four rooms are only enough for her own family, and that she must not let.

We shall also move that the Distress Committee appoint a number of women inspectors to investigate local food prices, and report with a view to instituting prosecutions in cases of extortion.

That the Borough Council be approached with a view to securing that the domestic dust pails shall be emptied daily instead of once or twice weekly, as at present, in order both to provide employment and to secure improved sanitary conditions, and that for the same reasons **larger pails with lids be substituted** for those already in use.

That the Distress Committee urge the Government to arrange that the remittances due to soldiers' wives be sent by post, in order to avoid the delays and inconveniences to which these women are subjected, and the serious interference with their ordinary duties, whether domestic or wage earning, which arises, and the humiliation to which they are put by being obliged to attend weekly, to wait their turn to receive the money to which they are entitled.

That full instructions as to the places at which applicants to the Distress Committees must register, and all other necessary particulars, be prominently posted in the streets of the Borough.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The Hackney Distress Committee met on Friday August 21st, and discussed charity *versus* work, and other points in an apparently academic spirit.

Asked if the Committee had taken steps to obtain a grant from the National Fund to relieve immediate distrees, Councillor Ray replied that as a Committee they had yet no evidence of distress. He did not doubt its existence, but they had not yet got the machinery in motion. So whilst elaborate "machinery" is being perfected and adorned with bows of official red-tape, women and children can starve—outside the official cognisance of the Distress Committees!

To the Editor of the
WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

I was one of those that went to the House of Commons on Tuesday, August 25th. We saw Mr. Will Thorne, and I told him, as a Reservist's wife, that I had received no money from the War Office, and that when I applied for relief at the Public Hall I was refused on account of my marriage lines, as the Government had had them since June, and had not returned them. When I sent them I registered them, but they sent them on to my husband in Devon *after* I wrote and told them I required them, instead of sending them to me, and my husband had to borrow 1d. stamp to send them home to me.

In the meantime I had to go to the church and get a copy of them so as to get a few shillings relief. I received 6s. which went in rent; that was for a fortnight.

I think it is a shame that the Government should be allowed to do such things just because you are poor. I don't profess myself poor when I have a husband who will work and keep me, but when they take your man away you might as well say they have took all you possess, and they don't care, so long as they have him, what becomes of them left behind. But we don't ask them for anything at all. We have a right to have what our husbands have to slave for and get treated like dogs to earn. It is enough to make one go mad to think what they go through, but I hope when women get the vote that they will see that everyone gets a fair chance in life, as we don't get it now. I hope you put a piece in the DREADNOUGHT for me to let them know what we think of them. I am only one of the hundreds, and there are plenty worse off than me.—Yours, etc.,

E. MURRAY (Canning Town).

The Local Government Board, in a memorandum to local committees for the relief of distress, says:

"Single men who are physically fit and within the prescribed ages for enlistment in the Army, Navy, or Territorial Forces should not ordinarily receive assistance from the local committee until other applicants have been provided for."

The Charity Organisation and others go further and say: "relief should be refused to young single men capable of military service." Is it fair to starve men into joining the Army and is an Army made up of recruits who have been starved and boycotted into enlistment likely to be of use under fire, and the attendant hardships of war? Why should poor men have to fight for their country if rich men need not? The hated old Press Gang system was a fairer one than this, when applied, without social distinction, to the young men without dependents who were physically fittest.

WHY NOT COMPLAIN.

Lady Frances Balfour, writing in the *Daily Mail* on August 24th, said: "Let there be no complaining in our streets. . . . Women can save the situation by accepting it. We have heard of women giving tongue over the counter because the full tail of their goods could not be delivered at the usual price. Such people are as deserving of being treated as deserters as ever any soldier is who runs from the rifle fire of the entrenched position he has to take."

Can anyone save a situation by accepting it, when it is a situation which ought not to have arisen? We think not. Lady Frances Balfour would have the women who complain when unscrupulous traders put up the prices of goods already in stock, and gamble on the prospect of future famine, shot like deserters. What then would she do with the gamblers in food stuffs? What would she do with the Government that have allowed prices to go up before there was any scarcity? Last week Messrs. Bathgate, wheat exporters, explained in a coolly written trade article in the *East End News* that the price of wheat had gone up because Canadian exporters had found it possible to charge more, owing to this country's inability to obtain supplies of wheat from Europe. Messrs. Bathgate further stated that the prices might be lowered a little shortly, because America has now a second crop of "unprecedented dimensions."

Such statements clearly illustrate the fact that in this time of trial the traders of England and her Colonies are putting up their prices, not because expenses have increased, but because they know that they can force people to pay the money.

Lady Frances Balfour speaks of the Colonies "giving their last men and their last shillings," as far as many traders who gamble in food stuffs are concerned this is pure humbug.

So far from assenting to the view of Lady Frances Balfour, we regard the women who are protesting against the extortionate prices as deserving of high and widespread commendation. They are performing a public service in striving to protect from starvation, before any scarcity has arisen, the poor people whose incomes are being steadily underminded by short time and unemployment. In our view, it is the duty of the Government at such a time of crisis, to see to it that the food is sold at prices which the majority of the people can afford to pay, the traders being only allowed to make a certain fixed percentage of profit, the deficit, if any, being made good out of the National Exchequer.

NATIONALISE THESE TOO!

HOSPITALS should, during the war, remit fees for attendance and medicine. Here are two cases out of many which show the great need for this:—

Mrs. W.—Husband was a general labourer earning 25s. a week at Gas Works, Beckton. Out of employment since Saturday, 8th August on account of war. One baby four months old (breast fed) suffering from wasting, and is being treated at Queen's Hospital, Hackney Road. It costs the mother 4d. for bus fare, and 4d. for medical attention and medicine at hospital. 4s. 6d. rent which is in arrears since August 8th. No money coming in so cannot get baby treated.

Mrs. L.—Two children, both have recently had measles; eldest, aged 2, ought to be attending the Children's Hospital for ear trouble, but there is no money to pay for the medicine. Husband, cabinet maker, has been out of work three weeks. Rent 4s. 6d.; three weeks in arrears.

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

The Home Secretary desires to bring to the notice of all shopkeepers and retail firms the following resolution unanimously adopted at a conference of all the leading London traders last week: "That it is neither desirable nor necessary in existing circumstances to dismiss any assistants, but that if economies in the carrying on of business are necessary they should be met by other means."

The West London District Council of the Shop Assistants' Union is indignant at the action of several shopkeepers in putting their whole staff on half-pay and working them full time. In some "living-in" establishments, says the Council, the quantity of food has been reduced, causing much expense to the already ill-paid employees. Trade Unionists are asked to boycott shopkeepers who are reducing expenses in this manner.

MORATORIUM FOR THE POOR.

In the City of London Court yesterday, Judge Atherley-Jones, K.C., said although the moratorium applied only to debts over £5, he would adjourn the hearing of all the judgment summonses *sine die* where they were under that amount as well, as he could not make committal orders in these times. He was not pursuing an eccentric course, but one generally adopted.

We agree with Mr. Atherley-Jones that this course *should* be generally adopted, but unfortunately it is not, and we fear will not be, until it is made compulsory. Here is a case of hardship which proves this only too clearly:—

Mrs. P. of Wyke Road, Bow, has four sons at the war. Three of them are married and one who is in the special Reserve South Middlesex Regiment is unmarried. This son lives at home and has been giving his mother 12s. per week out of his wages. The father is nearly blind and has not been in work since February 20th last. There is a daughter who will be 14 next October, and two little sons of 11 and 9 years. Mrs. P. herself is a sewing machinist and earns 7s. to 10s. a week making garments for a factory in her own home. Out of these earnings she has to spend 1s. 6d. for the cost of her machine, 8d. for cotton, 1d. for soap for waxing the thread, and to pay for gas for ironing. She works from 7 a.m. till 11 p.m. She pays 7s. 6d. in rent, a lodger pays her 3s.

At a time when she had no work herself she found employment for her little girl at making buttons. The child earned 4s. After nine weeks her husband was summoned to the Police Court and fined 10s. because the child was in employment and 3s. for not sending her to school.

Nothing happened till last Saturday, when, whilst the mother was seeing her youngest son off to the war, a policeman came and took the nearly blind husband to prison. The rent is now six weeks in arrears and the landlord has informed Mrs. P. that he ordering a Bailiff to execute a Distress warrant to distrain at once. She is also informed by the Education authorities that she will be made to pay for the free dinners which her children have been getting at school. She is therefore, met by financial difficulties on every side. After going three times to the Bromley Public Hall, she was given 6s. on account of her son who used to allow her 12s. when he was at home. She is told that she will get 6s. per week. This week she spent so many hours trying to get the money and helping her daughters-in-law to get theirs, that she had only earned 2s. 3d. up to Wednesday evening.

Need for Moratorium for Rent.

The following notice has been served on the wife of a Glasgow Reservist:—

———, ———,

Bridgeton, Glasgow, 2/2. I am instructed by ———, ———, ———, *Glasgow, to give you notice in terms of Section 5 of the House Letting and Rating (Scotland) Act, 1911, that a petition will be presented in the Burgh Court against you on the expiry of 48 hours after the date hereof.*

———, *Burgh Officer,*
———, *Glasgow.*

August 12th, 1914.

A WOMAN'S PROTEST.

The women Suffragists of New York are organising a parade of women dressed in black to show their sympathy for other women suffering through the war.

This is the American women's "Bugle Call."

"Forty-five of the great nations of the world attended the second Hague conference.

These unanimously agreed to favour the employment of mediation, commissions of inquiry and arbitration in the settlement of disputes after diplomacy had failed.

Six of these 45 nations are now in a state of war. Thirty-nine are still neutral. Of the latter the United States, Japan and Italy are the only powers of the first rank. But Japan is an ally of England and Italy a member of the Triple Alliance.

The United States is the only nation of first rank not involved. The United States is, therefore, free to urge nearly 40 nations to unite in a joint appeal to the warring nations to cease firing and settle the questions at issue by peaceful methods.

Women of America, it is being demonstrated that decisions of this kind can no longer be left to men alone. The women's point of view is needed.

War is wrong. It is not necessary. No longer bow to it as if it were inevitable.

Go on record this week for world wide peace. Make your position clear. Write to your Congressmen to bring pressure to bear on the Administration for peace. Though disfranchised, use every means in your power to put an end to slaughter and bloodshed.

Call the world to witness, and to-day declare war on war."

AT THE HOUSE.

By Mrs. DRAKE of Tidal Basin, E.

We arrived at the House of Commons just after 3 o'clock. When the policeman at the gate saw us coming he said "What is this! a deputation?" I said "No, we are coming to see our own Members of Parliament."

We went through and another constable, who was issuing tickets said "I cannot issue any more" because he saw there were so many of us. However I obtained one and said to the others who wished to see the same Member "When he comes we can all talk to him." The Members did not keep us very long. Mr. W. Thorne, M.P., came out and was quite willing to discuss what we came about. In reference to nationalising the food supply. He said that they Bills before the House to stop food being exported and are going to punish any cases of overcharging. I said "Why can't they Nationalise it and done with it," he said if they "were of your and my way of thinking they would; but they are not."

In reference to National works for the relief of unemployment, he said that must come from the Local Distress Committee. When their plans are ready they can present them to the Cabinet and they will see what they will do towards them. I said while the grass is growing the cows are starving. He said "I had a Bill before the House twelve months ago for Municipal work to relieve unemployment, but they would not touch it with a 40 foot pole." I then said "What it amounts to is this, they are going to starve the men into joining the Army." He only shrugged his shoulders. I asked "How about the women." He answered "They must get into their Distress Committees and formulate a scheme of work that is most suited to them and send it on to the Government." Then we came to the vital question will they give us the vote and let us help ourselves; he smiled and said "Not this Session, I don't know about the next." I then remarked: "It seems to me we shall have to be a great deal more militant before they study our interests, they are only there to study their own!"

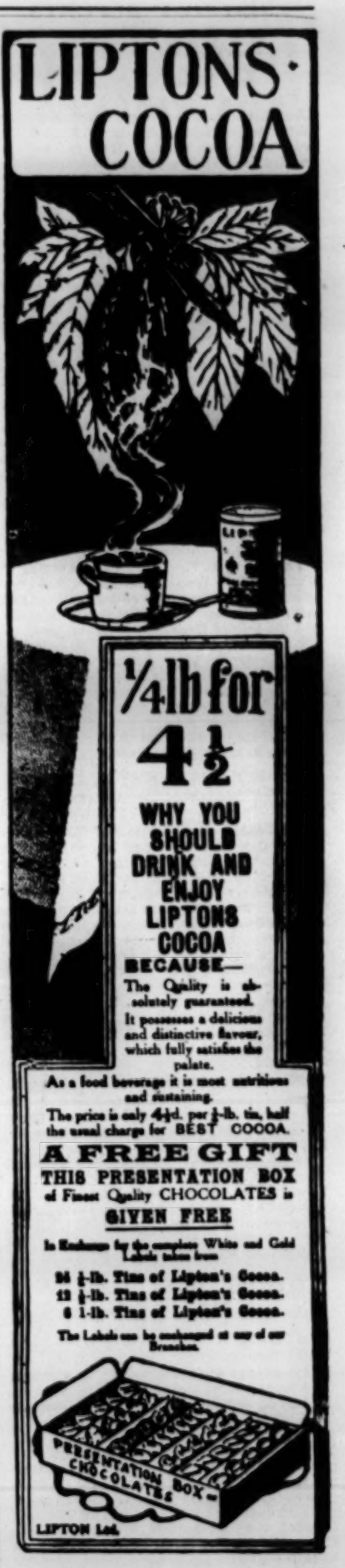
LOOKING AFTER PRICES.

The United States Housewives' League has sent out a call to its members to study food prices and the whole food situation, so that the housekeepers may be prepared to protect themselves as consumers against dishonest dealers who are raising prices because of the European war.

A letter has also been sent to President Wilson, asking him to issue a proclamation to the merchants of this country urging them to maintain level prices, and to refrain from speculation in foodstuffs.

The Housewives' League has 750,000 members, and is one of the largest women's organisations in America. Mrs. Julian Heath, the President and Founder of the League, was once an active anti-Suffragist, and made speeches against Votes for Women, but she was converted when she began to try to right wrongs connected with pure food—weights and measures, food prices and storage, etc.—through legislation.

In Glasgow we learn that public houses are to be closed at 5 p.m. every day during the war. This is an excellent plan as in these times men who spend money there usually do so at the expense of their children's food. Where food centres are wanted it would often be well to take the public house over for this purpose and compensate the publican.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WHY YOU SHOULD DRINK AND ENJOY LIPTONS COCOA
BECAUSE—
The Quality is absolutely guaranteed.
It possesses a delicious and distinctive flavour, which fully satisfies the palate.
As a food beverage it is most nutritious and sustaining.
The price is only 4½d. per ½-lb. tin, half the usual charge for BEST COCOA.
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THIS PRESENTATION BOX of Finest Quality CHOCOLATES is
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12 ½-lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa.
6 1-lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa.
The Labels can be exchanged at any of our Branches.
PRESENTATION BOX OF CHOCOLATES
LIPTON Ltd.

Gamblers in food prices go their way with impunity, but martial law deals severely with workpeople who do not do as they are told, even when principles are in danger. A number of labourers discharging a grain vessel at Sunderland Docks recently, on refusing to complete the work in the way dicated, were promptly dismissed and other labourers, who were discharging the "*General Havelock*," struck work in sympathy. The officer in charge of the military guarding the Docks, immediately ordered a number of soldiers to discharge the vessel.

When you are in distress, do not take the food out of your children's mouths to pay the landlord.

Do not allow your neighbours to be driven out.

Do not quietly starve and pawn or sell your furniture, but demand that work shall be found for you.

Do not go to the Poor Law Guardians—demand work from the Distress Committees. Register at the Public Libraries.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser (pro tem.)—Mrs. Bouvier.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Canvassing in connection with Distress Committee work has been carried on through the week, and Demonstration of August 23rd was well advertised. Thanks are due to Mrs. Savoy, Mrs. Pascoe and Miss Roach for helping with the stall. More helpers are needed, particularly for Saturday morning, 11—1 o'clock; even one hour's work will be most welcome. More regular distributors of the *Woman's Dreadnought* are needed, and the organiser appeals for volunteers who will undertake to distribute 50, 100 or more copies every week. Members are urged to attend Monday and Friday meetings, and to bring unconverted friends, and also to support the speakers in Victoria Park on Sunday, 3 p.m., and at Chrisp Street on Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 21:—Central 219. Bow and Bromley 269.

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Husted, 200; Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

POPLAR.

Office—319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser—Miss Mary Phillips.

The week has been devoted to working up Dock Gates Demonstration, which was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd. Both resolutions were carried unanimously, and the sale of *Dreadnoughts* was good.

Canvassers have been busily at work, and have discovered many cases of distress.

The paper-selling pitch for Saturday night has been changed from the upper end of Chrisp St. to the lower end, at the corner of East India Dock Rd.

Mrs. Bouvier will be in charge of the work during the organiser's absence.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

On Monday Miss Somers addressed a huge crowd at "Peacock," and several *Dreadnoughts* were sold. There was a canvassing party on Wednesday and members did well; Mrs. Tidmarsh sold 7 papers and Mrs. Layton 21. Still more members are needed for this excellent way of distributing the paper. Miss Feek was the speaker on Thursday, and members were quite surprised and pleased to have Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Smyth walk in. Several members have been asked to serve on local distress committee, and our next monthly social will be held on September 26th. Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker on Friday and 29 *Dreadnoughts* were sold.

140 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Aug. 21

Canning Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Roper, and Mrs. Layton.

Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributors—Miss Cox and Mrs. Pullen.

Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf.

Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss G. Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Nicholas, Miss Ivy Holt and friends.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. Bonarius, 89 Wyke Road.

Meetings as usual on Wednesday and Friday to urge the Government to take over food supplies and give Votes to Women. Tickets for benefit concert in aid of Comrade Wise, of R.S.P.U. and Gas Workers' Union, may be had from any member of the R.S.P.U. We are holding a social in the Women's Hall on Saturday, September 19th. Those who are in distress through the war are asked to give full particulars to J. W. Bonarius, at the above address, any evening; he will then forward same to Labour Members on the Central Committee formed to relieve distress in this district.

24 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Aug. 21.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Anon. £25, Mrs. Forbes £5, Miss Feek 5/-.

For Milk and Relief of Distress—

Mrs. Millo -/4, Miss Joachim £e, Miss Harraden 2/-, Miss Hodge 5/-, Miss M. Brackenbury £1, Mrs. Metcalfe Smith 5/-, Marion Kinsey Peile £2/2/-, Hilda Mac Gregor 11/3, 'Ellis Crowd' 3/-, Helen Raesin 4/6, Three Suffragettes 1/-, Mrs. M. M. Hulme 3/-, Miss Pycroft £1, Misses Menzies £1, Mrs. A. M. Burke, 10/, per Miss Buchan 10/-, Anon. 5/-, 'Militant Suffragette' £1, Mrs. Liemens £1, Miss Barry 5/-, Mrs. and Miss Finke 10/-, Miss Octavia M. Adler £1/1/-, Mrs. Russell 7/6, Mrs. Yewman 3/-, Mrs. Apps 5/-, Mrs. Vaughan 1/6, A Working Woman 1/-, E. Rhodes and E. Hoyle 7/6, Mrs. T. Spencer £3, A boy 2/6, Mrs. Russell 7/6, Mrs. Yeoman 3/6, Miss Ethel Graydon 10/-.

Gratefully acknowledged for district work

Mrs. Eliot	6 plates and a dish.
Mrs. Crabb	A boiler.
Mrs. McCheyne ..	Boiler with gas ring.
Mrs. Pascoe	Dish & 2 enamelled ladles.
Mrs. Walsh	6 dessert-spoons.
Mrs. Parker	3 plates and a dish.
Mrs. Knudson ..	3 plates, meat and vegetable dishes.

A. E. WAKEFIELD, 259 Old Ford Road, Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Woman's Dreadnought.

Can you do anything to stir up public opinion to insist that where the breadwinner is called up to the colours, and the woman with whom he was living and was keeping is left destitute, the local committees of the Prince of Wales's Fund shall be compelled to give her a grant, even though she is not formally married to him? There are hundreds of cases where women are leading perfectly respectable lives, married women in everything except the possession of a certificate, where, owing to the views of these local committees, there is absolute misery and destitution, owing to their menfolk being taken away from them.

The matter is very urgent, and I hope you will be able to do something.

Forgive my troubling you.

Yours truly,
R. A. PHILLIMORE, L.C.C.

Battler's Green,
Watford, Herts.

THE EVERY WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (INTERNATIONAL) FOR ARBITRATION AT THE HAGUE.

Dear Friend,—After having **protested** as a body against this inexpressibly sinful European War within a few hours still of its declaration, we **women** everywhere as a body, too, have done like all others, whether societies or individuals. We have appeared to accept this war as a "necessary evil"—a thing which does not exist.

It has **not** to follow its course like, for instance, measles; it is **not** a dispensation of God, like the weather.

IT IS MAN-MADE—and it **has to be women-undone.**

Someone must **BEGIN** this Movement. The little bird, at the top of my beloved Swiss mountains, touches the snow with its foot. It is only a humble bird, it will soon die—but it will set the avalanche rolling.

If it is late now to stop this war, it is not so late as to-morrow, and in a day more horrors will happen. Besides, this war will have to cease sometime, will it not? If so—why not now?

Do you want to wait till there is only **one** man left in our so-called "civilised countries"?

If we allow this butchery to continue, this mighty sin to God and man, even this large war will **not** be the end of war, it will be the first one of many.

Russia, also, will bring forth further claims inadmissible by anyone, and the very nations which now unite will then unite against one another, just like the Balkan Wars, which were on a small scale, what is going to be on a larger one, if we **women** do not stop it all **from going further!**

Remember in Romish History the Sabines of old who **saved their mankind!**

Shall we, after more than 2,000 years, do less than they did?

Whilst our men fight, we women everywhere must propose peace, and the German women, etc., will hear of it and follow.

Let us start an **International "Every Woman's Movement" to stop this War and all War through Arbitration at the Hague.** (What is the costly Palace for if not for Peace?)

LUCY THOUMAIAN.

"Oakhurst,"
Chigwell, Essex.

WOMEN KNOW.

Women, who are the family Chancellors of the Exchequer, and buy and cook the food to keep the families going, know that strong fighting men cannot be manufactured under such conditions as those disclosed by a writer in the *Daily Citizen*, who says:

"During a tour among the Territorial regiments scattered throughout the country, I heard complaints on every hand about the contractor. One infantry battalion had seen its meat condemned on two consecutive days, but, as the quartermaster said, 'it is about 2 to 1 that the contractor will manage to charge the meat up to some other account.'

"In another case I was taken into a 'dry canteen' (a grocer's shop) run by a contractor. There I paid 1d. for a box of safety matches, which usually are retailed at 2½d. per dozen. Condensed milk of an unknown brand cost 7½d. for a can of the size that Nestle's retail at 3½d.; tinned herrings, usual price 5½d., were quoted at 8½d., and so on.

"In sergeant's messes, which had been entrusted to the tender mercies of the contractor, the charge for a bottle of table beer ranged from 4d. to 6d., but never sank to the 2½d. of civil life. The men complain that these exhorbitant charges, which are made upon necessaries as well as luxuries, reduce there pay by 30 per cent., and at the same time reduce the sums which they send to their wives and dependents at home."

It is no wonder, when such scandalous jobbery prevails, that we find widespread distress amongst the wives and families of soldiers. When women get the vote they will have an opportunity to safeguard the position of the soldier's wife, and prevent the Army contractor from exploiting both the tax payer and the man who fights for his country.

My dear wife works as hard as I,
I know she does for I had a try
When she was ill some years gone by,
I'm sure she should have a vote.

Our boys and girls should be better fed
And guarded, taught and to virtue led;
Our wives and ourselves together have said
For their sakes we each want a vote.

I.ARKIN.

C. O. S. MEANNESS.

The Charity Organisation puts forward the following miserable scale as a suitable model for the relief of distress.

An adult living alone	4s. 6d.
Two or more adults living together each	3s. 6d.
Children (not fed at school):	
Under 5 years ... ...each	1s. 0d.
5 to 14 years ... ... „	1s. 3d.
14 to 16 „ (if dependent),,	1s. 6d.

This scale is meant to cover food and fuel only, and is in addition to rent.

They say that the scale is based on "normal prices" but the prices are abnormal now! Why have they got out a scale that was out of date beiore it was formulated? But even at normal times, everyone knows that people cannot live decently on such prices.

DISTRESS.

The Charity Organisation Society says: "As far as the Society can gather, there is at present little serious distress that can be directly attributed to the war."

We disagree. Evidence of grave distress comes to us daily.

TYPICAL CASES.

Mrs. W.—Five children, one of whom is paralysed. The youngest has a cleft palate and must be bottle fed. Husband out of work through builders' strike; cannot get more because of the war.

Mrs. P., Bow.—One baby 18 months; husband out of work; was employed at Deptford Dry Dock. Rent of three rooms 6s. 6d. Pawning for food.

Mrs. B., Bow.—Husband, upholsterer, out of work through war; two sons, one out of work through war and one earning 10s. as gun maker. Rent 7s. 3d. Married daughter with three small children has had husband out of work for six months, relying on parents for help. Rent of three rooms 7s. 6d.

Mrs. B.—Widow with one child. Fur machinist earning 15s. a week. Three weeks out of work owing to war. Nothing coming in but a little help from neighbours. Rent of one room 3s. 6d. Can do needlework and would do up furs.

Mrs. B.—Is expecting baby. Husband, sawyer, used to earn £2, out of work through war. Rent 7s. for three rooms.

Mrs. W.—Two young children. Husband, paper hanger, earning 24s., out of work through war. Rent 5s. for two rooms. Nothing coming in.

Mrs. W.—Five children under age for leaving school. Husband a labourer; elder daughter of 15 employed at sweet factory, discharged through war; 4s. 6d. rent for two rooms; nothing coming in. Woman anxious for charing or any work.

Mrs. C.—Husband out of work, French polisher; daughter out of work; two other young children.

Mrs. A. is ill. Husband, French polisher, out of work since August 23rd. Three children aged 13 to 19, one child working short time. Lodger working short time. Daughter staying at home to help. Mother can do needlework.

Mrs. B.—Husband, casual labourer, lost work August 17th. Wife, coat finisher; sanitary authorities forbid her to carry on her work through lack of room. Rent 4s.

Mrs. G.—Husband, printers' labourer, in hospital. Daughter, blouse hand, out of work through war. Rent 9s. Both mother and daughter can do needlework.

Mrs. W.—Seven children. Husband, wood turner, on short time. Daughter employed at printing works on short time. Daughter engaged in boot trade out of work. Rent 9s. for four rooms. Mother wants machining work to do at home.

Mrs. W.—Four young children. Husband, labourer in wood yard, Reservist not yet called up. Mother wants plain needlework and has machine.

Mrs. B.—Two young children. Son and husband both at front. No money received up to August 17th. Mother is consumptive but asks for work.

Mrs. K.—Four children. Husband out of work. Nothing left to pawn. Rent 4s.

Mrs. M.—Husband, fish porter, out of work through war. Four children also out of work through war; 11s. 6d. rent; lodger pays 3s. 6d.

Mrs. W.—Baby ill. Husband out of work through war a fortnight ago. Woman can do box work and sewing. Rent 4s. 6d.

Mrs. B.—Seven children. Husband, printer, on short time. Brother who helps to support home called up.

Mrs. C.—Husband in lunatic asylum. Son, Reservist, supported home till he was called up; no money received on his account up to August 20th.

Mrs. Drake, of Canning Town, sends me the following list of distress cases from her own district:—

Husband always in casual work, doing worse lately; three children, expecting another every day; literally been starved this last few weeks.

Elderly woman; husband worked at mat factory over 40 years, is now doing two days a week, expecting to lose even that and no prospects.

Girl of 19 has lost her work, she is sinking from want of proper food, and suffering from anæmia and debility. She lives with her mother and four brothers and sisters. They get 8s. and four loaves from the Parish, "and a job to get that." The father went to sea four years ago, and sent money home up to two years ago. Since then nothing has been heard of him. He was a good father and they think he is dead.

MORE WORK FOR WOMEN.

The Women's Freedom League has initiated a Volunteer Police Corps of women to go on duty at Town Halls, Labour Exchanges, Relief Depots, Railway Stations, etc., and to direct and assist women who are seeking relief, etc. The services of such a body has been offered to Sir Edward Ward, but he says that he is unable to give it official recognition on his own authority, as he has merely been instructed by the Home Office to enrol a certain number of *men* as special constables. Nevertheless two women special constables have been enrolled at Sandgate in Kent.

The Women's Freedom League states that the women volunteer constables will be equipped with a list of the depots, offices or organisations, dealing in the different kinds of relief within their various districts, for the information of distressed or destitute women (according as they may be wives of soldiers or sailors, territorials, unemployed, or themselves discharged from work); also with lists of the hospitals, ambulance-vans, fire-stations or alarms, public telephones, etc., on their beat. They will be able to save many women long periods of waiting in queues by directing them at once to the right quarter for their application. It is further suggested that they shall keep a vigilant watch on undue prices of food in retail premises within crowded and necessitous areas.

It is hoped that official recognition will be accorded later on by the Home Office. Indeed it is probable that if the army makes further extensive calls upon able-bodied men a force of police women to deal with the direction and control of the general public will be absolutely necessary. It will be for the general public to see that the giving is not entirely one-sided and that if the country accepts the services of the women (as it is already doing in the Red Cross Department) it shall at least reward them by granting them full political rights.

THE QUEEN AND MR. ASQUITH.

When the Queen found that her schemes for providing work for women were being criticised by practical people, she formed the Women's Committee, of which Miss Mary MacArthur is Honorary Secretary, and of which Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C. (Women's Trade Union League), Miss Margaret Bondfield (Women's Co-operative Guild), Dr. Marion Phillips (Women's Labour League), and Mrs. A. W. Gasson (Co-operative Union), are members. Mr. Asquith might follow the Queen's example in grasping the wisdom of asking women's advice.

This committee is to devise schemes for the employment of women during the present crisis. We wish that such a Women's Committee might have had compulsory powers to carry its recommendations into effect. But the time for this will not come until women have obtained the franchise, and the vast body of working women have awakened to the knowledge of its use.

TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

The Government is sending to many soldiers' wives living in London, blue papers, stating that they are entitled to 1s. 1d. per day for themselves and 2d. for each child.

Women living within the London Postal area are entitled to 1s. 7d. for themselves. They should see that they get it.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Dutch papers draw a terrible picture of unemployment and its consequences in Berlin.

So keen is the distress that a demonstration took place before the Imperial Palace. Women came with babies in their arms to demand bread and work.

Vorwaerts, the Berlin Socialist newspaper, dated August 18, has other vivid details. An ammunition factory advertised for women workers. In the early morning many hundreds of women and girls assembled before the factory. Only a few could be engaged, but the others could only be removed by a great force of police.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* devotes a leading article to the need for most vigorous measures to prevent starvation. The price of tea, which, with bread, is the staple fare of the very poor, has advanced by 50 per cent.

Tenants are being ejected for the non-payment of rent, and this adds to the tension

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